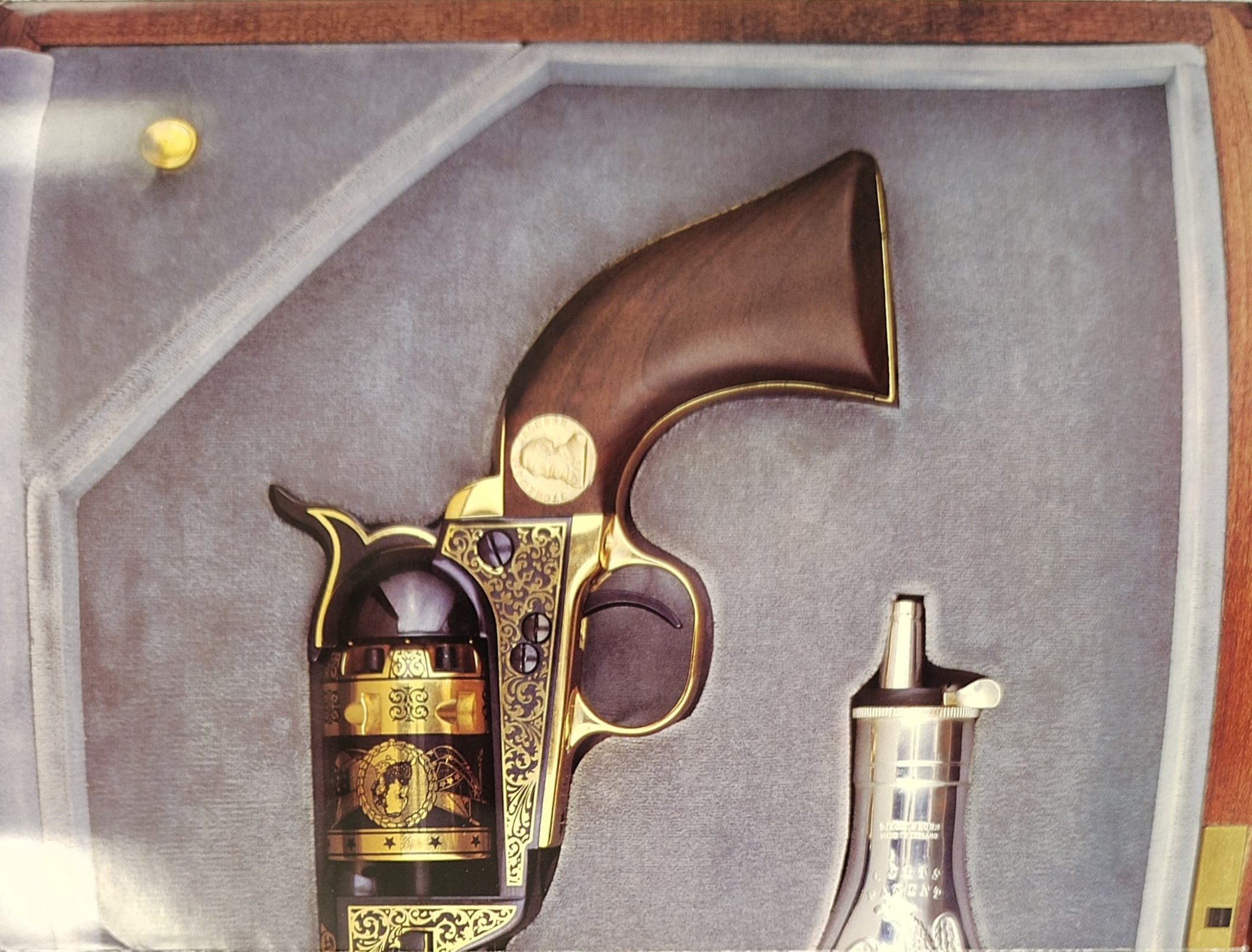
THE OFFICIAL

STONEWALL JACKSON PISTOL

Authorized by the
United States Historical Society

THOMAS "STONEWALL" JACKSON
1824
1863



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The remarkable design and fine detail of the official Stonewall Jackson Pistol are shown on this unretouched photograph.

R.L. Wilson, author of numerous books on antique firearms, including *The Colt Heritage* and *Colt Engraving,* says the 1851 Navy Colt is "a remarkable example of superb design and craftsmanship." The 24-karat gold Florentine engraving design is after the design of the engraving patterns of the period.

The name *Stonewall Jackson* is etched on the top of the barrel, bordered by laurel wreaths. The laurel wreaths are also etched in gold on the two adjoining flats of the barrel.

On the sides of the barrel are etched three gold stars, representing Jackson's rank of Lieutenant-General.

Note how closely the design is etched to the edges of the metal. Only a handful of craftsmen in the world are able to achieve this technique.

THE '51 NAVY COLT

Samuel Colt designed the first '51 Navy in 1850. He sold them to both Federal and future Confederate officers and to customers in England, Canada, and Australia. Nathan L. Swayze, the arms historian, calls it "one of the most graceful and beautiful of all Sam Colt's percussion pistols."

The '51 Navy became so widely used because it was so well designed and constructed. Like the Walker and Dragoon Pistols, it was (and is) safe and easy to load and fire. But with six .36 caliber shots, the '51 Navy was easier to handle and more accurate in battle conditions.

THE POWDER FLASK

The same manufacturer that provided Colt Flasks for officers of the Confederate Army is making the identical flasks for the Stonewall Jackson Pistol. This is the classic American Eagle design, plated with sterling silver.

SPECIFICATIONS

Length: 13 inches

Caliber: .36

Weight: 2 pounds, 9 ounces

Cylinder: steel, decorated in 24-karat gold

Grip: walnut, inlaid with gold-on-bronze medallion

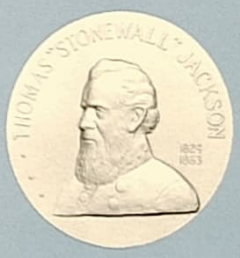
Frame and Barrel: steel, gold-etched and blued

Triggerguard and Backstrap: Brass, clad in 24-karat gold

Percussion Caps: No. 11

Gun Powder: Black powder only

THE STONEWALL JACKSON MEDALLION



(OBVERSE)

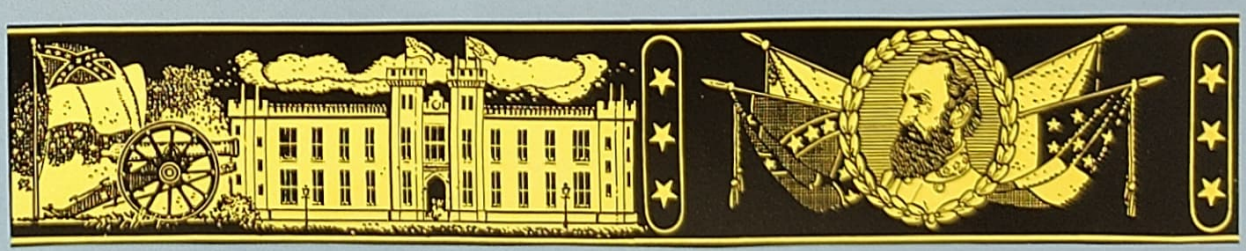
(REVERSE)

Minted exclusively for the Stonewall Jackson Pistol, the 1⅜" diameter medallion, struck in solid silver, portrays in bas-relief Jackson's portrait that was taken just days before the Battle of Chancellorsville. The medallion is located in a special fitted compartment in the American cherry case.

The same design has been struck in bronze and plated in 24-karat gold for the walnut grip of the pistol.

THE CYLINDER DESIGN

The cylinder of the Stonewall Jackson Pistol has etchings which depict important symbols in the life of Jackson. As the cylinder rotates the details shown here are displayed.



2nd national flag of the Confederacy—first issued to drape Jackson's casket—with cannon

The "Castle" at the Virginia Military Institute

Portrait of Jackson in front of crossed flags

YOUNG TOM JACKSON

Thomas Jonathan Jackson was born in Clarksburg, Virginia (now West Virginia) on January 21, 1824. He grew up in the midst of poverty, sickness, death, and insecurity, but overcame all those obstacles to become one of the south's greatest heroes.

He was not accepted for appointment to the United States Military Academy because of his low scores in mathematics. But when the young man who had been appointed instead decided military life was not for him, Jackson asked for a second chance. He said, quite candidly, "I am very ignorant, but I can make it up in study. I know I have the energy and I think I have the intellect."

He worked hard at West Point, often studying by firelight after curfew. He continually wrote maxims for himself in his journal which gave much insight into the character of young Tom Jackson:

Sacrifice your life rather than your word. Resolve to perform what you ought; perform without fail what you resolve. Through life let your principal object be the discharge of duty. You may be whatever you resolve to be.

THE MAKING OF THE MAN

Soon after graduation, Jackson took part in the war against Mexico. He actually enjoyed battle and was extremely cool under fire. Indeed, his courage and bravery often turned the tide of battle. After the fall of Mexico City, he stayed on in the capital where he learned grace, cordiality, and gallantry and devoted himself to the study of Spanish. Later, when he married his beloved Anna, he often spoke Spanish endearments to her that he learned from the romantic Mexicans.

He was as bored in peace as he was brilliant in war and found garrison duty distasteful. When the Virginia Military Institute offered him a post as Professor of Natural and Experimental Philosophy and Artillery Tactics, he accepted. He was deepy respected as a man of integrity and dedication.

While at VMI, he started instruction in the faith. He joined the Presbyterian Church in Lexington, and from then on, God was his supreme commander.

On the eve of the War Between the States, he addressed the VMI cadets with a rare speech: "The time for war has not yet come, but it will come, and that soon. And when it does come, my advice is to draw the sword and throw away the scabbard."

STONEWALL

His record in the Civil War was impressive. The two years in which he fought were the years of victories against incredible odds in the Confederacy's struggle for its cause.

At the first Battle of Bull Run, he rode up and down the line oblivious to the rifle bullets that whistled around him. He continued to give orders with a hand wrapped in a handkerchief to cover a shrapnel wound. Even with blood running from his fingers to his elbow, his bravery inspired confidence in his beleaguered troops.

General Bee, who later died in that battle, rallied his own men from South Carolina. "Look!" he shouted to his troops. "There is Jackson standing like a stone wall."

Soon, Thomas Jonathan Jackson was known as "Stonewall."

His military leadership became legendary. He believed in striking hard, fast, and where it would hurt. His men often complained of the grueling pace he set, but they loved him and would die for him. One of his men said of him, "Moses took 40 years to bring the Israelites through the wilderness. Old Jack would have taken them through at the double-quick on half rations in three days."

THE BATTLE OF CHANCELLORSVILLE

Stonewall Jackson, typically, was pushing forward during the Battle of Chancellorsville looking for a road so he could strike. He found himself close to the Federal troops and turned back. Between the lines, their horses made sounds like a detachment of cavalry, and in the dark, Jim Lane's North Carolina troops let loose a volley.

Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee meet for the last time on the eve of the Battle of Chancellorsville.

One of Jackson's companions ordered a cease fire, but in the dark, Lane's men didn't believe they were firing on their own men. An officer shouted, "It's a lie. Pour it into them, boys!" Stonewall slumped in his saddle. His horse, Little Sorrel, ran unreined and the wounded General's head struck the limb of a tree.

His men carried him back and his left arm was amputated that night. Even though the Federal Army was badly beaten, it was not destroyed as Jackson had hoped.

The General went to his old headquarters at Moss Neck to recuperate. He seemed to be healing nicely when pneumonia set in. Anna came to him, and he whispered to her, "My darling, you are very much beloved."

Later, when Anna informed him that he was dying, he asked for confirmation from his surgeon, Dr. Hunter McGuire. Jackson stared for a moment at the ceiling, then said, "Very good, very good, it is all right." He gave a few more commands . . . "Prepare for action! . . . pass the infantry to the front!" . . . then said softly, "Let us cross over the river, and rest under the shade of the trees."

Stonewall Jackson died on Sunday, May 10, 1863. He was 39 years old.

"I HAVE LOST MY RIGHT ARM."—Gen. Robert E. Lee

Robert E. Lee mourned the loss of his friend and "right arm." But even as they carried Jackson to his grave at Lexington, Lee was already planning a movement into the North such as Stonewall had urged since the beginning of the war.

Two months later, after Gettysburg, Lee declared, "If I had had Jackson at Gettysburg, I should have won the battle, and a complete victory there would have resulted in the establishment of southern independence."

THE DISPLAY CASE

Crafted of American cherry, the case has been designed to display and protect the pistol.

The lid is inlaid with genuine leather, gold stamped with a border design from the pistol engraving. Gold stamped in the center is the silhouette figure of Stonewall Jackson, mounted on his horse Little Sorrel.

The case is lined in velvet, fitted to accept the pistol, solid silver medallion, and the powder flask. Corner compartments hold the lead balls and a German silver box of percussion caps from the Virginia Firearms Manufactory. The caps box is engraved with Jackson's signature.

RESERVATIONS

The official Stonewall Jackson Pistol is available only through the United States Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia.

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